

INTEGRATED RESOURCE TIMBER CONTRACT PROSPECTUS

Stewardship Contract Name : Otis Ranch MP Thin National Forest : Plumas Bidding Method : Negotiated Location to Receive Offers : Elaine Gee, Contracting Officer, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St. Nevada City, CA 95959 Date : 09/26/2011	Type of Contract : Premeasured Ranger District : Beckwourth Time : 10:00 AM
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1. INTRODUCTION. This prospectus furnishes prospective offerors with information not contained in the published advertisement and is designed to enable offerors to decide whether or not to further investigate this stewardship project. The prospectus is not a legally binding document, but is offered to provide general information about a Stewardship Contract. The prospectus does not include descriptions, estimates, and other data that are contained in the sample contract, unless otherwise stated. In the event that the prospectus contains an error or contradicts the sample contract, the contract governs. Offerors are urged to examine the contract and make their own estimates. Contract 2400-13T will be used. Inspect the contract area and the sample contract before submitting an offer. Obtain the appraisal, other information on the contract and stewardship work items and conditions of offering at Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement.

This is a Stewardship End Results Contract authorized by 16 U.S.C. 2104 Note.

2. OFFERING. This is a Negotiated Stewardship Contract. Offerors must submit sealed offers on prepared forms they can obtain from Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. The forms include instructions for offering and submission of the required certifications and technical proposals. The term "offer form" in this prospectus is the Bid for Integrated Resource Contract form. Also, the term "offeror" in this prospectus is identified as "offeror" in the Bid for Integrated Resource Contract form. **THE OFFERS WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY OPENED.**

The offeror is required to submit a technical and price proposal and comply with all other provisions stated on the offer form. The proposal should be practical and be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Contractor's ability to meet the requirements of the contract. Upon contract award, this technical proposal will become a binding part of the contract. See Section 21, General for instructions for preparation of technical proposals and evaluation factors for award.

3. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE TIMBER. Refer to the sample contract and contract area map attached to the sample contract for legal location of contract area, location of payment units, location of cutting units, the acreage of contract area, the cutting unit acreage and location of stewardship work activities.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LOCATION, ROUTES OF ACCESS, ACREAGES, AND OTHER SPECIAL LOCATION DATA DO NOT SUPERSEDE THE CONTRACT AREA MAP OR SAMPLE CONTRACT.

The Otis Ranch MP Thin Timber Sale is located on the Beckwourth Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest, ~7 miles north of the town of Graeagle, CA. To reach the sale area from the junction of Hwy 70/Hwy 89, travel west on Hwy 70 for ~2 miles to forest road 23N05Y. Units are located at the intersection of Hwy 70 and 23N05Y; other units are located along the 24N05Y, north of Hwy 70. Additional units can be accessed from Hwy 70 and 24N12 Willow Creek area and Hwy 70 and 23N11 Jackson Creek area.

4. QUANTITIES AND RATES. The quality, size, cut per acre, and product suitability of the timber are estimates based on detailed cruise information on file and available for inspection at the Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. **VOLUME QUANTITIES LISTED HEREIN ARE MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT VALUES SHOWN ARE FOREST SERVICE ESTIMATES AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED.** For these reasons, offerors are urged to examine the contract area and make their own estimates.

Road Construction Costs. The estimated road construction cost has been included in the appraisal as a cost that the Contractor will incur. The Contractor will be responsible for the road construction cost and WILL NOT receive credit towards stumpage costs for this expense, i.e., THIS CONTRACT DOES NOT INCLUDE STEWARDSHIP CREDIT for the construction of specified roads and Contractors should consider the cost of specified road construction when developing their offers.

THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID RATE FOR THE MANDATORY TIMBER CUTTING UNITS IS STATED IN THE ATTACHED OFFER FORM. THESE RATES ARE EFFECTIVE AT THE TIME OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Mandatory Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

				Rates Per Unit of Measure			
Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Base Rate	Advertised Rate	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Mandatory Timber Cutting Units :							
Douglas Fir	Sawtimber	CCF	893.80	0	\$31.09	\$0.15	\$0.00
Incense Cedar	Sawtimber	CCF	400.40	0	\$36.48	\$0.15	\$0.00
Lodgepole Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	63.70	0	\$1.00	\$0.15	\$0.00
Ponderosa Pine/Jeffery Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	3,678.40	0	\$5.00	\$0.15	\$0.00
White Fir/Red Fir	Sawtimber	CCF	7,381.80	0	\$14.78	\$0.15	\$0.00
Combined Softwood	Non-Saw	CCF	21,519.70	0	\$0.25	\$0.15	\$0.00
	TOTAL	CCF	33,937.80			\$5,090.67	\$0.00

Optional Estimated Quantities and Rates per Unit of Measure

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Rates Per Unit of Measure			
				Base Rate	Advertised Rate	Additional Deposits for Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance

Not Applicable

Total Value Bidding:

Prospective Contractors must submit bids for the timber portion of the contract in terms of the minimum acceptable total contract value. The Bid for Integrated Resource Contract (FS-2400-14BV) states minimum acceptable bid rates and estimated quantities of timber, together with the minimum acceptable total timber value. The advertised minimum acceptable total timber value is only for the biddable species, as listed on the offer form in the upper section of block 14. It does not include any non-biddable, fixed rate species listed in the middle section of block 14 titled "Only the Fixed Rate Applies." The offeror should enter the offer on the offer form only in terms of the total timber value. The Forest Service shall establish timber bid rates by species in the contract by multiplying each species' minimum acceptable bid rate by the bid increase percentage. Such rates will be rounded to the nearest cent. The bid increase percentage is the offeror's total timber value bid rate divided by the minimum acceptable total timber value. The total amount for stumpage is the volume of each biddable species multiplied by its bid rate, plus the volume of each fixed rate species multiplied by its fixed rate.

If the contract includes optional timber cutting units and offeror elects to bid on those units, bids for optional units are entered on the lower section of block 14. By entering bids for optional timber cutting units on the lower section of the offer form, offeror is agreeing to harvest the optional timber units. Procedures for distributing bid premium are as described in the previous paragraph and total timber value becomes the sum of mandatory and optional timber units.

This contract contains provisions for stumpage rate escalation. Tentative rates for , except Combined Softwood Non-Saw and Incense Cedar Sawtimber apply, subject to quarterly adjustment during the contract period.

All of the mandatory stewardship work items, as shown in A.4.3 or AT.4.4 of the sample contract, shall be performed. Optional stewardship work items, as shown in A.4.3 or AT.4.4 of the sample contract, shall be performed when authorized in writing by Contracting Officer. Such authorization may be for all or a portion of the quantity shown. Optional stewardship work items may be selected and authorized in any order. Upon written request of Contractor, additional stewardship work items shall be considered and authorized; however, Contracting Officer shall not be obligated to authorize additional stewardship work items if three or more authorized optional stewardship work

items or any of the mandatory stewardship work items remain uncompleted. Contracting Officer shall not be obligated to authorize additional stewardship work items at any time if Contracting Officer determines that there is insufficient value of remaining designated timber to cover the value of additional stewardship work items.

Stewardship Schedule of Work Items			
Item Number (a)	Work Activity Description (b)	Unit of Measure (c)	Estimated Quantity (d)
Mandatory Stewardship Work Items			
1104	Grapple Pile - Units 039,069,076,093,156,09A,09B, and 32A	Acres	444.90
Optional Stewardship Work Items			
1104-B	Grapple Pile - Units 083,123, and 155	Acres	566.90

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 06/01 and 10/31.

Contract termination date is 03/31/2015. Extensions of this contract may be granted only when the contractor has met specified conditions.

Upon acceptance by the Forest Service, the technical proposal is a binding part of the contract and shall include, but is not limited to, plan periods for and methods of work activities. The Contractor must also submit an annual schedule of operations before commencing operations. This schedule will include the anticipated major activities and needs for harvest. This annual schedule of operations does not require concurrence of the Forest Service.

6. PAYMENT. Payment for timber and any required deposits for slash disposal or road maintenance are required in advance of cutting. Contractor may earn stewardship credits or provide an acceptable payment guarantee prior to cutting. "Stewardship Credits" are credits that are earned and established when work described in K(T)-G(T).9# of the sample contract has been performed and accepted. Stewardship Credits shall be earned at the offer rate as shown in the awarded contract. Earned Stewardship Credits may be used to pay for Included Timber value in excess of Base Rates and Required Deposits. Base Rates and Required Deposits must be paid in cash.

If an offeror elects to have the Forest Service construct specified roads, the contract shall provide for collection of not less than the full estimated cost of the roads stated in this prospectus, in addition to the current contract rate value and required deposits. Contract Form FS-2400-13T provides for collecting the estimated public works road construction cost as each payment unit is released for cutting, at a rate accelerated on 80 percent of the estimated volume.

If offeror elects the road option, payment for right-of-way timber will be made in advance of cutting. The timber will be decked by the road contractor and will be made available to the Contractor when notified by Forest Service of location and availability. If Contractor and road contractor agree, Contractor may cut and remove right-of-way timber as part of the specified road construction.

7. PERFORMANCE BOND. A performance bond is required. The penal sum of the bond will be 10 percent of the total offer value for included timber, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total offer value is \$10,000 or less; and rounded up to the nearest \$1000 when the total offer value exceeds \$10,000; or \$17600, whichever is greater.

8. SPECIFIED ROADS. The Forest Service has determined that the following National Forest System roads shall be constructed or paid for, in whole or in part, by the Contractor. Sufficient information to permit a prospective offeror to calculate the likely cost to be incurred for road construction is available at the Forest Supervisor's Office. See the sample contract for verification of specific details and information concerning construction specifications. CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES AND INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, TOGETHER WITH RELATED SPECIFICATIONS, ARE NOT GUARANTEED. The following roads are those that Forest Service considers necessary to remove the timber from this contract.

Road Number	Road Name	Traffic Service Level	Approximate Miles/Kilometers	Estimated Road Construction Cost	Type of Work *
23N33	BONTA CREEK	C	1.45 / 2.33	\$5,912.08	R
23N05Y-2	BONTA RIDGE	C	1.43 / 2.3	\$8,612.78	R
23N05Y-1	BONTA RIDGE	C	3.37 / 5.42	\$26,755.99	R
23N49-1	CONSIGNEE CREEK	C	1.36 / 2.19	\$3,549.06	R
23N49-2	CONSIGNEE CREEK	C	0.76 / 1.22	\$3,850.65	R
23N23Y-1	FAME	C	0.21 / 0.34	\$1,896.65	R
23N12	LITTLE LONG VALLEY	C	4.72 / 7.6	\$21,714.89	R
23N97Y	LUMAN DRIVE	C	0.77 / 1.24	\$4,564.40	R
23N27Y	WILLOW FLAT	C	2.16 / 3.48	\$13,329.75	R

* C = Construction
R = Reconstruction

The required specified road completion date for all roads is 08/01/2012. If provision K(T)-F(T).1.3# - Road Completion Date has different dates for projects, this is the final road completion date.

Total estimated road construction cost allowed in appraisal is \$132,718.05

An offeror qualifying as a small business concern may elect to have the Forest Service construct the specified roads listed above. Completion dates for construction apply whether construction is performed by the Contractor or by the Forest Service. If the offeror elects Forest Service construction, it is the Forest Service's intent to perform construction through CONTRACT. The Forest Service shall not award the contract unless either it receives a satisfactory road construction bid or, if it fails to receive such a bid within 180 days of tentative award, the offeror agrees to perform road construction.

If Contractor elects Forest Service construction, the total estimated public works construction cost that would be paid in addition to current contract rates is \$117,030.08. See provision K(T)-E(T).1.2# - Amount Payable for Timber in the sample contract for additional information.

The following changes will be made to the sample contract when the Forest Service constructs specified roads:

A(T)3 - Timber Designations: "Specified Road Clearing" will be changed to "Construction Clearing" KT-CT.3.2.3

A(T)7 - Change the title to "Permanent Roads To Be Constructed by Forest Service."

A22 or AT19 - Make the following changes in A22 or AT19:

- Add KT-CT.3.2.3 - Construction Clearing.
- Add KT-ET.1.2# - Amount Payable for Timber.
- Add KT-IT.4.1 - Limitation of Performance by Other Than Contractor.

The estimated road construction cost includes the cost of road reconstruction engineering services, pursuant to Public Law 88-657, 78 Stat. 1089, 16 U.S.C. 532-537. Refer to provision K(T)-F(T).2.1.3# - Deposit for Reconstruction Engineering Services in the sample contract for additional information.

Contractor shall make a cash deposit in the amount \$42,531.80 for engineering services completed by Forest Service in preparation of this contract. The Forest Service shall complete reconstruction related engineering services on the following schedule:

Road or Facility Number	Termini From -To(MP or Sta.)	Engineering Services Completion Date
23N05Y-1	0 — 3.37	08/31/2011
23N05Y-2	0 — 1.43	08/31/2011
23N12	0 — 4.72	08/31/2011
23N23Y-1	0 — .21	08/31/2011
23N27Y	0 — 2.16	08/31/2011
23N33	0 — 1.45	08/31/2011
23N49-1	0 — 1.36	08/31/2011
23N49-2	0 — .76	08/31/2011
23N97Y	0 — .77	08/31/2011

9. ROAD MAINTENANCE. Contractor shall perform or pay for road maintenance work, commensurate with Contractor's use, on roads controlled by Forest Service, and used by Contractor in connection with this contract. Road maintenance requirements are based on the predicted haul route. Any change in the Contractor's actual haul route may necessitate a change in the roads to be maintained and/or in the amount of required deposit for road maintenance. Required deposits for road maintenance are listed in provision K(T)-F(T).3.2# in the sample contract. Maintenance specifications are in the sample contract.

10. INAPPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

12. SET-ASIDE CONTRACTS. Not Applicable.

13. LOG EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS. The contract requires domestic processing of included timber except for species declared to be surplus, and prohibits the use of such included timber in substitution for unprocessed private timber exported. The offeror, by signing the offer for advertised timber, certifies compliance with the applicable prohibitions against export and substitution prescribed in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, as amended (16 U.S.C. 620, et seq.) with each offer.

14. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW. If the total contract value for this contract exceeds \$10 million, before award, the Forest Service shall request an equal employment opportunity compliance review of the Contractor to determine compliance with the provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967 and Executive Order No. 12086 of October 5, 1978.

15. AWARD. The Contracting Officer is required to make a determination of Contractor responsibility as stated in Title 36, Section 223.101, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

To determine a Contractor to be responsible, a Contracting Officer must find that:

- a. The Contractor has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;
- b. The Contractor is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing contracts and Governmental business commitments;
- c. The Contractor has a satisfactory performance record on similar type contracts. A prospective Contractor that is or recently has been seriously deficient in contract performance shall be presumed not to be responsible, unless the Contracting Officer determines that the circumstances were beyond the Contractor's control and were not created through improper actions by the Contractor or affiliate, or that the Contractor has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a Contractor is not responsible. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;
- d. The Contractor has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;

- e. The Contractor has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for completing the requirements of the contract;
- f. The Contractor is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Offerors, by signing the offer form, certify that, to the best of offeror's knowledge, the offeror will meet the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101, determination of Contractor responsibility, and if awarded this contract, that offeror will complete the contract and any modifications thereof in accordance with its terms including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove included timber or forest products and complete stewardship projects by the termination date.

16. FALSE STATEMENTS ACT. Offerors, by signing the offer form, certify that they are aware that offeror is subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001, Chapter 47, Fraud and False Statements (P.L. 104-45). The Act states "whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

17. DAMAGES. This contract shall be terminated for breach if: 1) Contractor fails to execute this stewardship contract or furnish a satisfactory performance bond by the date required in the award letter, if required; or 2) offeror is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on the offer form including not meeting responsibility requirements, and offeror has made a false statement.

18. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION. Non-procurement debarments and suspensions are governed by the Government-wide common rules (7 CFR 3017). These rules require each contractor, to submit a certification for itself, its principals, and its affiliates when submitting an offer on stewardship contracts. The offeror must designate its status regarding debarment, suspension, and other matters as specified on the offer form. The offeror, by signing the offer, certifies this status. An explanation for not submitting a certification may be submitted. The Contracting Officer will determine whether the explanation provides sufficient reason for permitting participation in the competition. Also, as a Contractor enters into transactions with subcontractors, these subcontractors must certify their eligibility. The certification titled "Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion" must be provided to subcontractors, but completed certifications are not required to be submitted with the offer. Contractor must keep these subcontractor certification forms on file for review by the Forest Service, if requested. The certification forms and instructions for subcontractors transactions are provided as an addendum to the offer form.

19. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) REGULATIONS. Conduct of operations on this contract is subject to compliance with all OSHA requirements related to the various work activities. Inspection by OSHA may include inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266. This standard is applicable to the entire logging industry wherever logging operations occur. Information is available to assist Contractors to ensure compliance with the logging operations regulations during conduct of this contract from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, California Department of Industrial Relations, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901, Oakland, California 94612.

20. GENERAL.

Notice of Similar Appeal and Litigation - Bidders are hereby put on notice that the Jackson Project EA is subject to appeal pursuant to CFR 215. Similar DFPZ projects on the Plumas National Forest have been appealed and involved in Federal Court litigation in the recent past. Therefore this timber sale may be appealed and/or litigated, which could result in contract suspension, modification or termination. The contract provides for limited remedies in cases of suspension, modification or termination due to administrative appeal and/or litigation.

The Contracting Officer is unlikely to award this contract until either the litigation is resolved or the high bidder signs a standard Pre-award Waiver, Release, and Limitation of Liability Agreement. A copy of the Pre-award Waiver, Release, and Limitation of Liability Agreement is available for review at the Forest Supervisors Office in Quincy, CA. Current status of the Jackson Project EA may be obtained by contacting the Beckwourth Ranger District Office.

KT-GT.3.1.5# - PROJECT OPERATIONS SCHEDULE - Protection of soil: Operations may occur when soil is dry; that is, soil moisture in the upper 8 inches is not sufficient to allow a soil sample to be squeezed and hold its shape, or will crumble when the hand is tapped. Winter operations may occur only when the ground is frozen to a depth of 5 inches or snow depth is at least 18 inches or is compacted by equipment to 8 inches

Timley removal of biomass: Biomass operations shall commence 30 days after the last saw log has been removed within that particular subdivision.

Wildlife: Units 32A,093 and 107 - No operations except for hauling from February 15 through September 15. Units 083 and 107 - No operations except for hauling from March 1 through August 15.

KT-FT.3.5# - ROAD AND WATER SUPPLY USE - Contractor shall make Required Surface Replacement Deposits of \$3.60 per CCF

KT-FT.1.3# - ROAD COMPLETION DATE - Construction of Specified Roads shall be completed no later than August 1st, 2012.

KT-GT.2.4# - SITE SPECIFIC SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES - Boundary sites are designated with red/black strip flagging (may fade to orange/black after time). Sites may have red/black 3"x4" tags with (CA) written on them. Site locations are recorded on the Heritage Resource Map, 3 of 3 of the Contract Area Map. All sites will be avoided by all project operations.

For the protection of aquatic species; at any approved water drafting site (see Contract Area Map), the use of a FGM 5161 or similar foot valve with opening less than 2mm will be required. Additionally, the foot valve shall be placed in the deepest section of the water source on a shovel, or plastic/canvas bucket after the site has been inspected for frogs or their eggs. Report and protect all wildlife guzzlers. Locations are in and around subdivisions and near haul roads, see Contract Area Map for locations.

Botanical- Boundary sites are identified with blue/black stripe flagging and red/black stripe flagging along with 3x4 red (may fade to orange/brown color) tags with "CA" written on them, the sites are behind the signs. All sites will be avoided by Contractor's operations.

MINING CLAIMS - protect monuments and improvements in contract area; see Contract Area Map for specific locations.

KT-GT.4.1# - FELLING, BUCKING, AND LIMBING - Within areas designated DF on Contract Area Map, Included Timber shall be directionally felled away from control areas (CA), improvements, survey monuments, RHCA/SMZ, meadows, springs, cattleguards, fencelines, power and water lines and private property.

Within areas shown on Contract Area Map, Contractor shall treat stumps of all live < conifer > trees equal to or greater than 14 inches stump diameter.

Trees larger than or equal to 20 inches DBH shall be bucked into two or more pieces with the butt portion being no longer than 41 feet prior to skidding/yarding. The butt log shall be limbed prior to skidding/yarding.

KT-GT.4.2# - GROUND BASED SKIDDING - Skid roads will average 80-120 feet from center to center, except where converging.

KT-GT.6# - EROSION PREVENTION AND CONTROL - Where soil has been disturbed by Contractor's Operations and the establishment of vegetation is needed to minimize erosion, Contractor shall take appropriate measures normally used to establish an adequate cover of grass or other vegetation acceptable to Forest Service or take other agreed stabilization measures.

Tillage of landings, main skid-tractor roads and temporary roads will be required up a maximum of 63 acres.

KT-GT.8-2# - Measuring - Option 2 - This sale is a tree measurement sale. Any additional (add on) volume will use the NATCRS R5 cubic volume table that was derived from the Otis Ranch MP Thin timber cruise.

KT-GT.9# - CONSERVATION PROJECTS - Performance of the grapple piling stewardship activities shall be completed on units 039,069,076,093,156,09A,09B, and 32A for a total of 444.9 acres.

Some Otis Ranch MP Thin units share a common boundary with other projects. Boundaries may have same paint color and ribbon. Refer to the Contract Area Map for correct units.

The successful offeror shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) at www.ccr.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL AND PRICE PROPOSALS

(a) General Instructions. Proposals submitted shall be furnished in the following format with the numbers of copies as specified below.

(1) - The proposal must include a technical proposal and price proposal. Each of the parts shall be separate and complete so that evaluation of one may be accomplished independently from evaluation of the other. The technical proposal must not contain reference to cost.

(2) - Offerors may, at their discretion, submit alternate proposals or proposals which deviate from the requirement; provided, that an offeror also submit a proposal for performance of the work as specified in the statement of work. Any "alternate" proposal may be considered if overall performance would be improved or not compromised, and if it is in the best interest of the Government. Alternate proposals, or deviations from any requirement of this Request for Proposal (RFP), must be clearly identified.

OR

(2) Offerors must submit a proposal that meets all requirements specified in the sample contract. No alternate proposals will be accepted.

(3) - The Government will evaluate proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth below.

(4) - Offerors shall submit their proposal(s) in the following format and the quantities specified:

(i.) One copy of the completed, signed offer form FS-2400-14BV or FS-2400-14BVU provided by the Forest Service for this contract.

(ii.) Three copies of the technical proposal.

(iii.) One copy of the business/cost proposal.

(b) Technical Proposal Instructions. Technical proposals will be evaluated to determine the ability of the Contractor to meet the requirements of the Government. As a minimum, the proposal must clearly provide the following: See the attached Technical Proposal Form for the Evaluation Factors and Subfactors.

EVALUATION, NEGOTIATION AND AWARD PROCESS

Proposals will be evaluated and rated to determine which offerors are within a competitive range, price and other factors considered. Award may be made without further negotiations. Proposals should be submitted initially on the most favorable terms that the offeror can submit to the Government, from both price and technical standpoints. However the Government may, after evaluation of proposals, conduct further oral or written discussions as appropriate, with all offerors whose proposals are within a competitive range. Proposals that do not address one or more criteria or subfactors, may not be considered further for award.

Firms lacking a past performance record (e.g., new firms or those with no relevant experience within their organization) will be treated as an unknown performance risk, receiving a neutral score in this criteria. A neutral score will be established as the average of all other competing offerors, or the average of the total score available, whichever is less.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation factors for this contract and their relative importance are listed below in descending order of priority. All subfactors within a factor are equal in weight.

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Approximate Weight</u>
A. Price	20%
B. Technical Approach	20%
1. Plan of Operations	
2. Quality Control	
3. Contract Manager and On-the-Ground Supervisor(s)	
4. Equipment	
5. Production Capability	
C. Capability and Past Performance	30%
1. Key Personnel	
2. Subcontractors	
3. Past Contacts	
D. Utilization of Local Workforce	15%
E. Other	15%
Small businesses and small business sawmills	

Award Statement. One award will be made to the offeror (a) whose proposal is technically acceptable and (b) whose technical/price relationship is the most advantageous to the Government. All technical evaluation factors (B-D), when combined, are approximately equal to price (A). The critical factor in making any technical/price trade-off is not the spread between the technical ratings, but rather the significance of that difference. The significance of the spread in ratings will be determined on the basis of what that difference might mean in terms of performance and what it would cost the Government to take advantage of it. Award may not necessarily be made for technical capabilities that would appear to exceed those needed for fulfilling the requirements of this contract. The Government reserves the right to make cost/technical trade-offs that are in the best interest and to the advantage of the Government.

Price proposals will not be scored.

POSTAWARD DEBRIEFING OF OFFERORS

- (a) (1) An offeror, upon its written request received by the agency within 3 days after the date on which that offeror has received notification of contract award in shall be debriefed and furnished the basis for the selection decision and contract award.
- (2) To the maximum extent practicable, the debriefing should occur within 5 days after receipt of the written request.
- (3) An offeror that was notified of exclusion from the competition, but failed to submit a timely request, is not entitled to a debriefing.
- (4) (i) Untimely debriefing requests may be accommodated.
- (ii) Government accommodation of a request for delayed debriefing, or any untimely debriefing request, does not automatically extend the deadlines for filing protests. Debriefings delayed could affect the timeliness of any protest filed subsequent to the debriefing.
- (b) Debriefings of successful and unsuccessful offerors may be done orally, in writing, or by any other method acceptable to the Contracting Officer.
- (c) The Contracting Officer should normally chair any debriefing session held. Individuals who conducted the evaluations shall provide support.
- (d) At a minimum, the debriefing information shall include-
 - (1) The Government's evaluation of the significant weaknesses or deficiencies in the offeror's proposal, if applicable;
 - (2) The overall evaluated cost or price (including unit prices) and technical rating, if applicable, of the successful offeror and the debriefed offeror, and past performance information on the debriefed offeror;
 - (3) The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the source selection;
 - (4) A summary of the rationale for award;
 - (5) For acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful offeror; and
 - (6) Reasonable responses to relevant questions about whether source selection procedures contained in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities were followed.
- (e) The debriefing shall not include point-by-point comparisons of the debriefed offeror's proposal with those of other offerors. Moreover, the debriefing shall not reveal any information prohibited from disclosure by Federal Acquisitions Regulations 24.202 or exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) including-
 - (1) Trade secrets;
 - (2) Privileged or confidential manufacturing processes and techniques;
 - (3) Commercial and financial information that is privileged or confidential, including cost breakdowns, profit, indirect cost rates, and similar information; and
 - (4) The names of individuals providing reference information about an offeror's past performance.
- (f) An official summary of the debriefing shall be included in the contract file.